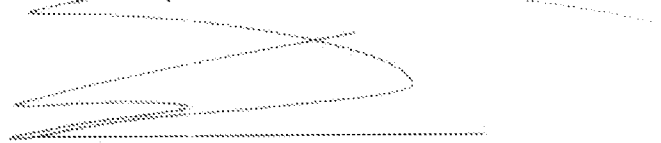


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the Application. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 3-10, 13, and 15-17 are amended, claims 12 and 18 are cancelled, and claims 19-22 are added as new claims. The Applicant has made certain voluntary amendments to the claims whereby the claims are written in accordance with the practice in the United States. All of these amendments are voluntary amendments, and none of the amendments are required for purposes of patentability. Thus, Applicant is entitled to application of the doctrine of equivalents with respect to these amendments.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter into the record the above amendments prior to calculating the filing fee on the application referenced above.

Respectfully submitted,



Tod T. Turney
PTO Reg. No. 47,146
TURNER L.L.P.
P.O. Box 22188
Houston, TX 77227-2188
(713) 622-7005 (Phone)
(713) 622-0220 (Fax)
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS